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D/FBIS Chrono

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

FBIS-0287/85

DATE

3 July 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Deputy Director for
Science and Technology
Room 6E45 - Headquarters

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FYI, the attached memos for the record relate to recent discussions with [redacted] chairman of the Information Handling Committee, and George Rogers regarding their proposals for an FBIS role in providing an automated open source data base accessible by the Intelligence Community. We resisted the idea that we could undertake such an initiative at this time, but left the door open for FBIS to participate in the requirements definition phase of such a project.

[redacted] seemed anxious to put money now into the development of a community data base, but we stressed that we are fully occupied at the present in our own automation plans. You may hear more about this.

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ICS 85-8067
21 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FBIS Participation in Automation of Community Open Source Data Bases

1. On 6 June 1985, George Rogers, Vice Chairman, IHC and the undersigned met with senior officers of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, at IHC request, to explore conceptually the potential for a major FBIS role in providing automated open source data base support to the Intelligence Community. Representing FBIS were [redacted] Director; [redacted] Deputy Director; [redacted]

The rationale for the IHC initiative is: (a) FBIS is already one of the principal providers of open-source intelligence through its broadcast reporting and the JPRS; (b) FBIS is at the beginning of its major automation program and, therefore, should have relatively greater flexibility to accommodate broad intelligence support responsibilities than would an agency that was constrained by the limitations of automated systems already in place; and (c) FBIS is an established, first-class information service organization, and is already structured and motivated to develop and maintain the kinds of support envisioned by the DCI's open source initiative.

2. Discussion revealed that FBIS will shortly conclude a contract to begin implementation of its automation plans, and that the ensuing activity will effectively absorb the resources and attention of its automation staff in the immediate future. It was agreed that new initiatives could not be permitted to disrupt this effort. However, FBIS expressed interest in further exploring the concept of an expanded mission in open source intelligence at a later time. Such exploration would be undertaken in coordination with the DDS&T and the Open Source Action Group chaired by Ambassador Heyward Isham.



Subject: FBIS Participation in Automation of Community Open Source Data Bases
ICS 85-8067

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25X1






D/FBIS

10 June 1985

Monday

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1.  VISIT FROM IC STAFF. On 6 June  Chairman of the Information Handling Committee and George Rogers visited FBIS to discuss computer storage of open source material.  is assuming a common recommendation from various Community committees that an electronic data base, accessible by all, is required for open source material. His approach to FBIS is based on the amount of unclassified data produced by FBIS and his knowledge that we are about to initiate the Headquarters Automation contract. He suggested that since FBIS is so central to the question of open source data, we should be involved in defining a storage and retrieval system for the Community. He further indicated that FY 85 funds were available to initiate "studies."

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The FBIS response to  suggestion is as follows:


a. Engineering an architecture for Community storage and retrieval of open source data is beyond the capability of FBIS.

b. FBIS is central to any planning for such a system and would like to participate in the requirements definition process. We would do this as part of an ongoing initiative of working with our customers to determine how they intend to handle soft copy from the modernized FBIS.

c. Our Automation plans are set and it is too late to modify them. This is particularly true for any new requirement such as a new Community data base.

d. The requirements definition process cannot effectively utilize contractor support at this time. No FY 85 funds are needed.

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The next action, if any, will be a discussion with the DDS&T. (cc: D/FBIS, C/Prod, C/SDS, ADDS&T). 

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